

Harpswell Conservation Commission
Minutes
January 6, 2016

Opened Meeting: 3:02 PM.

Roll Call: Mary Ann Nahf, Deirdre Strachan, Ann Nemrow, Sue Vachon, Burr Taylor, Paul Ciesielski, Anne Perry, Wendy Batson, resident.

Approval of 12/16 Minutes: The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Announcements:

Pesticide and Fertilizer (PF) Ordinance:

The next public hearing is slated for 1/20/16 Planning Board meeting. Time yet to be determined.

Composting Project:

Chuck Perow, head of the recycling center, will talk about his ideas for initiating a composting program at the next HCC meeting, 1/20/16 at 4:00 PM.

Town Planner:

The Board of Selectmen has contracted with Mark Eyerman to renew his status with Harpswell. After June 30, his time is extended to twenty hours a week as a consultant planner for the next year. This increase in time reflects the increasing demands from on-going committee projects.

State Statute:

A bill to propose outlawing towns in Maine from legislating more stringent ordinances on pesticide usage than the State's has been panned.

Updates:

Q & A's Pertaining to the PF Ordinance:

S. Vachon presented the Commission with a list of "how" and "why" questions for review that explain the new restrictions and changes of the proposed ordinance to be presented to voters at the Annual Meeting. S. Vachon will incorporate the suggested changes and email to members for comment prior to the next meeting. These Qs will provide the backbone for a future "Anchor" article introducing the ordinance to the reading public by M. Nahf. Answers to the questions will be limited to two sentences.

Outreach:

Tasks to do for Ordinance...

1. W. Batson will draft a letter addressed to lawn care professionals explaining those changes in the ordinance that pertain to them.
 2. A generic letter of basic information will be sent to Town Lands, Recreation, Marine Resources and Mitchell Field Committees, Harpswell Garden Club, Invasive Plant Partnership, HHLT and Lobstermen's Association. The letter to be followed up with telephone calls.
 3. M. Nahf will confer with Gary Fish, State Board Pesticide Control, to glean information on the procedures required to attain certified application of pesticides for landscape professionals.
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4. M. Nahf will follow up with Skillins re discontinuation of Roundup and neonics, and an explanation of Harpswell's new pesticide ordinance.

Other Tasks to do...

- M. Nahf will compose a list of alternative non-toxic treatments for ways of curbing infestations of Brown Tail moth, Winter moth and Woolly Adelgid, all three of which are attacking Harpswell's trees. The information will be added to the web page. (Refer to 12/16 Minutes for inventory information requested by the State)
- W. Batson presented a list of 5 urls she feels are most relevant to outlining pesticide alternatives. This information will be expanded with time and added as a resource for public information to the web page.
- W. Batson, D. Strachan and P. Ciesielski to meet with M. Nahf and M. Eyerman to discuss the next step (see SLR report below). P. Ciesielski to email his report on wells to members.

Sea Level Rise (SLR) Report:

W. Batson submitted a written summation to the Commission of the issues specified in the report "*Harpswell Coastal Flooding Risk Assessment*" And several other documents on SLR in Harpswell.

- It consists of identifying the main impacts to the Town - marsh migration, flooding and erosion impacts on water bodies, contamination of potable water and septic systems, road inundations and the associated infrastructural problems of dams, culverts and bridges, and flooded homes.
- It lists some of the consultant projects required to assess damages, possible zone and ordinance changes needed for conservation of land, funding for private/public remediation and long v. short term projects/goals.
- Implementation requires outreach of all types - who/what needs to know, analyses, engineering assessments and specs, project estimates, and establishing a priority largely on the basis of immediacy. Bowdoin College Environmental Studies' Eileen Johnston, was mentioned as a resource to discuss possible field projects by Bowdoin students. Past projects involve the study of marsh migration and several other affiliated projects.
- Bibliography will be developed and indexed as per topic and chronology and put on the Town website.

HHLT Otter Brook Acquisition:

D. Strachan. Now that a case statement describing both parcels of land has been completed, fundraising by HHLT begins in earnest. Monique Coombs will assist HHLT with outreach between now and the Town Meeting in March. The Jan Anchor has an article on Otter Brook. HHLT plans to ask the Town for \$75,000 in 2016 and \$25,000, if needed, in 2017. Copies of "*The Otter Brook Corridor Project - Phase 11*" were distributed to members.

New Business:**Mitchell Field:**

Jane Covey, Chair of the Mitchell Field Committee, will attend HCC's 02/03/16 meeting to discuss the process involving conservation issues that might arise during the proposed pier and boat launch renovations.

At issue: The habitat impacts and benefits of the formation of a proposed artificial reef, that would save the Town \$750,000.00 in demolition fees, and the status of the existing eelgrass beds.

Refer to the report "*Recommendations for Improvements to the Waterfront at Mitchell Field*" for background information.

HCC:

M. Nahf, Chair, requested the Board of Selectmen reestablish and increase the number of five members back to the previously held seven. The Board approved.

Adjourned: 5:05 PM.

Meetings: 01/20/16, 02/03/16, 02/17/16, 03/02/16 at 3:00 PM (before Town Meeting.)

Scribe: Ann Nemrow